

RESOLUTION NO. 13-694

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that an evening with the Birmingham Heritage Band will be hosted by the Mr. Bobby L. Hayden, Historical Tours (HHT) and Howard Bankhead, Tennessee Valley Jazz Society-Huntsville (TVJS) during Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical Homecoming Weekend held on October 5, 2013 at the historical Cooper House in downtown Huntsville; and,

WHEREAS, the Birmingham Heritage Band, Conductor/Arranger is Dr. Tolton Rosser; SAXOPHONES, Dr. Frank Adams-Alto, Flute, and Clarinet, Lonnie Jones-Alto, Clarinet, Ves Marable-Alto, Lonnie Jones II-Tenor and Courtney Rollins-Baritone; TRUMPETS/FLUGELHORNS, David Carlyle, George Washington, Darryl Hardy and Jonathon Berry; TROMBONES, Leander McCurdy and Melvin White; KEYS, William Harris and Choko Kimura Aiken; BASS, Ned West; PERCUSSION, Timothy Huffman and Ray Robinson; and, VOCALS, Nadine Smith and Rickey Powell; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Tolton Rosser was born July 19, 1932 in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Rosser graduated from Parker High School in Birmingham, Alabama. He continued his education at Alabama A&M University at Normal, Alabama, where he played lead trumpet in the University band. While at A&M he organized and directed the A&M Jazz Orchestra. He graduated from Alabama A&M University in 1952. He later studied under Wilson Driver and William Wise Handy, and then toured with "Gate Mouth" Moore and "Bull Moose" Jackson's Orchestras. For a short time, he played with the Erskine Hawkins and Lionel Hampton Orchestras, the Driver Brothers Orchestra, and was a member of the Magic City Orchestra. He received his PhD in Education from the University of Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser decided after serving his time on the road that he would become an educator and share his wealth of knowledge with the young people in his community. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at Miles College; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser, a respected trumpet player, currently is a member of the renowned Birmingham Heritage Band and serves as its General Manager. The Birmingham Heritage Band was established in 1969 and is composed of seasoned veterans on the music scene, having played with some of the world's jazz greats. The band is widely recognized as the most entertaining jazz big band and has won high praise with their full 18 piece orchestra. The band is constantly in demand and has performed for numerous celebrations and events; and,

WHEREAS, Among Dr. Rosser's many distinguished honors are having been given the Band Director of the Year Award three times by the Birmingham Grid Forecasters. Dr. Rosser was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in 1982. Dr. Rosser is also one of the featured musicians in the newly published book "Tuxedo Junction: Right Back Where I Belong" by Carol P. Ealons which will be released for sale in December of 2013.

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser has been a tireless advocate and staunch financial supporter of his alma mater, Alabama A&M University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are proud to welcome such distinguished guests, as the Birmingham Heritage Band, to visit during Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical Homecoming Weekend, and extend best wishes for continued success.

ADOPTED on this the 26th day of September, 2013.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED on this the 26th day of September, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama